



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Man Sentenced for Fleeing, Assaulting Officers During Hollywood Pursuit

A 27-year-old man has been sentenced for leading police on a pursuit in which he crashed his car into several police vehicles earlier this year in Hollywood, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Pharuehat Wilaisophakun of Los Angeles pleaded no contest yesterday in a negotiated plea agreement to one felony count each of assault upon a peace officer and fleeing a pursuing peace officer's motor vehicle while driving recklessly. Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Eleanor Hunter immediately sentenced him to three years and eight months in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Justin Ford prosecuted case BA476763.

On April 4, the defendant got into a crash in his 2018 Prius at Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Avenue but did not stop. A police officer witnessed the crash and began pursuing the car.

Wilaisophakun fled at a high rate of speed, running red lights, weaving in and out of traffic and hitting multiple vehicles, according to testimony at the preliminary hearing. During the chase, three police vehicles attempted to block the defendant's vehicle and Wilaisophakun rammed them.

The defendant later crashed into a parked vehicle with a baby inside. The baby was not injured.

The pursuit finally ended when the defendant's car crashed into a truck and police vehicles pinned the car, blocking the defendant's path.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, Hollywood Division.

### About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.